



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JAM-A2002031	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/JP2003/007674	International filing date (day/month/year) 17 June 2003 (17.06.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 18 June 2002 (18.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B21D 28/00, 28/34, 28/36, 45/04, 45/08		
Applicant	AMADA COMPANY, LIMITED	

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 25 December 2003 (25.12.2003)	Date of completion of this report 01 September 2004 (01.09.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-3, 9-13, 15	YES
	Claims	4-8, 14, 16, 17	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-3, 9-13, 15	YES
	Claims	4-8, 14, 16, 17	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 5-261454 A (Seiko Epson Corporation), 12 October 1993, paragraph [0006]; fig. 3

Document 2: JP 10-44099 A (Muramoto Industry Co., Ltd.), 17 February 1998, claim 1, paragraphs [0012] to [0019]; fig. 1 and 2

Document 3: JP 2000-51966 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 12 October 2000, claims 1 and 2; fig. 1 and 2

Document 4: JP 9-70797 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 18 March 1997, paragraphs [0004] and [0005]; fig. 4

Document 5: JP 7-241634 A (Jidosha Denki Kogyo Co., Ltd.), 19 September 1995, claims 1 to 4; fig. 1 to 10

Document 6: JP 7-155865 A (Kabushiki Kaisha Amada Sonoike), 20 June 1995, claim 1; paragraph [0027]; fig. 2 and 3

Document 7: JP 49-713 Y (Shin'ei Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha), 9 January 1974, claims; fig. 1

Document 8: JP 8-238528 A (Amada Co., Ltd.), 17 September 1996, claims 1 to 4, paragraph [0020]; fig. 1 to 3

Document 9: US 5907985 A (International Business Machines Corporation), 1 June 1999, abstract; fig. 1

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(Family: none)

The invention set forth in claims 1 to 3 is neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the documents cited in the international search report.

The invention set forth in claim 4 lacks novelty and does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1, 2, 3 or 4 cited in the international search report.

The invention set forth in claim 5 lacks novelty and does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1, 2, 3 or 4 cited in the international search report. None of the documents specifies a seal portion, but it is obvious that in the die devices set forth in documents 1 to 4, a seal structure is effectively formed between the die and die holder.

The invention set forth in claims 6 to 8 lacks novelty and does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 2 cited in the international search report. In the light of its structure and paragraph [0012], the notch part (3) set forth in document 2 corresponds to the hole-punch engaging portion. In addition, the feature wherein said notch part is constituted as part of a peripheral groove is merely a design feature. Moreover, spot facing is a known technique.

The inventions set forth in claims 9 to 13 and 15 are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the documents cited in the international search report.

The inventions set forth in claims 14, 16 and 17

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lack novelty and do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 4 cited in the international search report. Documents 1 to 4 set forth devices for preventing gas from rising, and documents 1 and 3 set forth features wherein a plurality of fluid jetting ports are provided. Moreover, documents 1 to 3 set forth features wherein fluid jetting ports are constituted as small-diameter ports with a diameter of around 1mm or less, and taking into account the drawings and description of documents 1 to 4, it is obvious that the cross-sectional area of the fluid jetting ports is set smaller than the cross-sectional area of the fluid feed ports.